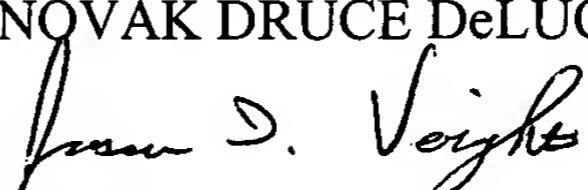


REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-14 are pending. Applicants urge that entry of this amendment after a final Office action is appropriate because the limitation now added to claim 1 appeared in original claim 4, and therefore does not present new issues for consideration.

Claims 1-3 and 5-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 1206976. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. As noted in applicants' previous reply, the present invention is concerned with the preparation of a new type of coating, said coating comprising a liquid material having a kinematic viscosity $\leq 10,000 \text{ mm}^2/\text{sec}$ which is coated on a rough surface. EP 1206976 does not disclose or suggest such a coating. While the Examiner maintains that '976 discloses liquid hydrophobizing coatings such as silicone oils, applicants note that '976 teaches hardening after applying as can be seen from the working examples. EP 1206976 also provides no hint that the use of a substance having a kinematic viscosity $\leq 10,000 \text{ mm}^2/\text{sec}$ imparts low adhesion properties to rough surfaces. Thus '976 would not have led one of ordinary skill in the art to the present invention.

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Respectfully submitted,
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